of Orissa Mining Corporation for lease in the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to clear the applications quickly so that the new plants come up expeditiously in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Government have granted permission to M/s Indian Aluminium Company Limited and M/s Larsen and Toubro Limited to set up 1 million tonnes per year each 100% Export Oriented Alumina producing units in the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) The process of setting up an alumina plant is dependent on a number of factors and activities by the concerned company and the delay cannot be attributed to the grant of Mining Lease as such.

Handling Over of Sukhinda Mines, Orissa

2176. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have handed over or have decided to hand over chrome rich Sukhinda Mines in Orissa to Mittlas and Jindals; and

(b) the justification thereof and reasons for not inviting NMDC a P.S.U. to develop the same?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) No such proposal is pending with the Central Government. Mineral concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. Any decision in the instant case by the State of Orissa has to be in accordance with the judgement dated 4.4.1995 of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in O.J.C. Nos. 7729/93, 4701/94, 3825/94, 5422/94 and 7054/94 and Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 23.7.1996 in S.L.P. Nos. 10838/95, 11391/95, 11392/95 etc.

Impact of Anti-Tobacco Legislation on Employment

2177. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to study the impact of anti-tobacco legislation on the employment levels in the country;

(b) if so, steps proposed to study the consequence of anti-tobacco legislation; and

(c) safeguards proposed to protect employment of tobacco workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) In the context of the proposed legislation regarding use of tobacco and tobacco products, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have appointed an Expert Committee to go into various aspects of tobacco use including employment aspect.

Free Trade Corridor in Mizoram

2178. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value and volume of exports and imports from Myanmar through the free trade corridor in Mizoram during last five years;

(b) whether there are reports of arms and illicit drugs being smuggled into the country through this corridor; and

(c) whether similar free trade corridors are proposed to be set up in selected spots along the Bangladesh border to ameliorate the difficulties of the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Government have not set up any free trade